

Message Text

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ACTION SMI-01

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 CU-04 USIA-15 /031 W

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P 021821Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3346

UNCLAS MEXICO 2747

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC, MX

SUBJ: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL

REF: STATE 030159

1. IN MEETING LAST WEEK WITH AMBASSADOR CABRERA, HE INFORMED US VERBALLY THAT BUDGET FOR ALL THREE SMITHSONIAN PROJECTS APPROVED. CAO REQUESTED THAT HE SEND FORMAL NOTE TO DR. BONFIL ADVISING HIM OF DECISION.

2. IRENE VASQUEZ TOLD CAO YESTERDAY THAT FOREIGN OFFICE INFORMED HER VERBALLY OF BUDGET APPROVAL FOR FOLKLIFE FESTIVAL. SHE ALSO INFORMED CAO THAT EVEN THOUGH WE HAD NO FORMAL NOTICE BUDGET APPROVAL UNTIL NOW, ASSUMED SMITHSONIAN WOULD HONOR ITS COMMITMENT AND THEREFORE BEGAN SALVADOR ORTEGA ON JANUARY 15. INAH WOULD THEREFORE APPRECIATE SMITHSONIAN BEGINNING HIS CONTRACT AS OF THAT DATE. AT \$600/MONTH, TOTAL CONTRACT FROM JANUARY 15 - JULY 30 WOULD AMOUNT TO \$3,900.

3. VASQUEZ SAYS THAT ORTEGA SPEAKS SUFFICIENT ENGLISH TO ACCOMPANY GROUP NOT ONLY AS FOLKLORIST - PRESENTER, BUT ALSO AS ADMINISTRATOR. SINCE HE NOT ON STAFF OF INAH, HIS REIMBURSEMENT FOR THAT PERIOD SHOULD BE MATTER DISCUSSION SMITHSONIAN-INAH.

4. VASQUEZ WISHES KNOW IF SMITHSONIAN WANTS HER TO BE WITH GROUP DURING WASHINGTON VISIT. SHE WOULD RETURN MEXICO WHEN GROUP DEPARTS D.C. FOR US. TOUR.

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CALDERHEAD

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